

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

SCAG SPOTLIGHT



Legislation and Policy Affecting Our Region

August 2013

RC Report

Highlights from the Regional Council Meeting



From left: SCAG President Greg Pettis; Deputy Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency, Jerry Meral; and SCAG Executive Director Hasan Ikhrata following the Deputy Secretary's Bay Delta Conservation Plan presentation to the Regional Council.

INFORMATION – BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN (BDCP) - Jerry Meral, Deputy Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency, provided an update to the Regional Council on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. The \$24.5 billion, 50-year plan proposes that water users pay the cost of building 37 miles of water tunnels under the Delta to transport water through sensitive eco areas to address existing water supply issues and adverse environmental quality impacts to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Rivers Delta and San Francisco Bay from the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project. SCAG's 2012-2035 RTP/SCS estimates an additional four million residents in southern California, which will require and depend on a reliable water supply. The BDCP final draft is scheduled to be released for public review and comment in October. For more information, please visit the BDCP website: <http://bit.ly/i9bMSe> and Delta Disrupted: <http://bit.ly/XdnkXk>.

INFORMATION – AB 93 UPDATE - The Regional Council received an update on AB 93, the Enterprise Zone Elimination Trailer bill that eliminated enterprise zones and implements the Governor's new economic development proposal. Provisions of the bill would institute two new tax programs - a Sales and Use Tax (SUT) exemption for manufacturing and biotech equipment and similar purchases, and a hiring credit under the Personal Income Tax (PIT) and Corporation Tax (CT) for employment in specified geographic areas. The bill also provides for allocating income tax credits through the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) to assist in retaining existing and attracting new business activity in the state. The tax incentive provisions (hiring tax credits) under AB 93 are applicable only to certain geographic areas as defined by AB 93. The geographic areas qualified for tax incentives designated in AB 93. This map shows which specific addresses are located in an AB 93 Qualified Geographic area: <http://maps.scag.ca.gov/AB93/index.html>.

ACTION – NEW 2016 RTP/SCS INPUT PROTOCOL

- In response to lessons learned from the 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) the Regional Council approved new protocol for preparation of the 2016-2040 RTP/SCS that clarifies who speaks for a jurisdiction when growth forecasting information is submitted to SCAG. The new protocol aims to avoid confusion regarding validity of input and address information consistency issues across departments in a given jurisdiction. More information at <http://bit.ly/18QePc5>.

From the Executive Director

Additional News for the Month



From left: SCAG President Greg Pettis, with former LA City Councilmen Dennis Zine and Ed Reyes and SCAG Executive Director Hasan Ikhrata. Zine and Reyes received SCAG proclamations in recognition of their service to the agency.

SCAG RECEIVES KEY FEDERAL APPROVALS –

I am pleased to report that SCAG has received federal concurrence of the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and 2013 FTIP conformity re-determination for the new 8-hour ozone standard. SCAG has also received federal concurrence on the conformity determinations for the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and 2013 FTIP Amendments to allow implementation of the new transportation projects and changes to some of the critical transportation improvement projects in the Amendments. Federal review and concurrence of these items are required pursuant to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's transportation conformity regulations and the U.S. Department of Transportation's metropolitan planning regulations. Receiving federal concurrence is essential for transportation projects to move forward.

SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM CALL FOR PROPOSALS UPDATE –

The 2013 Sustainability Program consolidated Call for Proposals was released on April 4 to the cities and counties, with an application deadline of May 31. The Sustainability Program builds on the success of the Compass Blueprint effort to provide services for communities and partners with two new components: Active Transportation and the Green Region Initiative. As reported to the Policy Committees and Regional Council at the June 6 meetings, SCAG received a total of 76 proposals, with total funding requests slightly exceeding \$10 million. A review committee has completed a ranking of proposals. Staff is recommending funding of all eligible project applications in three phases over the 2014 and 2015 fiscal years, allowing time to process the grants and develop additional funding for applications in phases 2 and 3. A report was provided to each SCAG policy committee on August 1. For more information visit: <http://bit.ly/1cj0dGk>.

STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES –

HUD is offering the Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant Program. This grant seeks to support the implementation of comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plans. Eligible applicants are Public Housing Authorities, local governments, tribal entities, non-profits and for profit developers that apply jointly with a public entity. A total of \$30 million is available. The deadline to apply is September 10. For more information visit: <http://1.usa.gov/kPDJVH>.

The California Coastal Conservancy is offering the Climate Ready Grant Program. This grant seeks to support the Conservancy's Climate Ready Programmatic Priorities. Projects must be located along the coast and coastal watersheds of California. Ventura, Los Angeles and Orange are eligible SCAG counties. \$1,500,000 is available. The deadline to apply is August 28. For more information, visit: <http://scc.ca.gov/2013/04/24/grant-opportunities>.

  www.scag.ca.gov

AUGUST

- 6 California Transportation Commission Meeting
- 20 SCAG Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- 21-22 Essential Grant Skills Workshop
- 23 7th Annual San Bernardino County Water Conference
- 27 SCAG Transportation Conformity Working Group
- 28 League of California Cities 2013 Cities Economic Development Conference

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Labor Day Holiday - SCAG Offices closed
- 12 Regional Council & Policy Committees
- 17 SCAG Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- 24 SCAG Transportation Conformity Working Group

EVENTS